

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Matanuska-Susitna Borough****Federal Tax ID: 90-0699180****Project Title:****Project Type: New Construction and Land Acquisition**

# Matanuska-Susitna Borough - GPRA Traverse and Little Susitna Loop - Alaska Long Trail

**State Funding Requested: \$1,900,000****House District: 11 / F**

One-Time Need

**Brief Project Description:**

The project will construct approximately 12 miles of new trails to connect two popular existing non-motorized trail systems and increase access to the alpine country east of Government Peak.

**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$1,900,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2023 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$1,900,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:****PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project will construct approximately 12 miles of new trails to connect two popular existing non-motorized trail systems and increase access to the alpine country east of Government Peak. At the south end, this new trail would connect to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's Government Peak Recreation Area (GPRA) which currently boasts 22 miles of hiker, biker, skier, and equestrian trails. To the north, extending into the Hatcher Pass area would be connections to the Skeetawk Ski Area and the 16 Mile downhill mountain bike trail.

**BENEFITS AND NEED**

This highly used area will greatly benefit from increased trail connectivity. In addition to the four developed trailheads that will be connected by this project (GPRA, Skeetawk, Fishhook Creek and 16 Mile) the trail will link to the campground at Government Peak along the Little Susitna River. An additional benefit for safety and user experience will be a route for mountain bikers and hikers to return to the top of the 16 Mile trail without needing a vehicle shuttle. Visitation to this region is heavy throughout the year, especially in the summer months when this trail will be used the most. Providing this infrastructure will give users a dramatic increase in connectivity between the four trailheads that does not exist and will open up many more possibilities for outdoor recreation. Beyond the connection of Hatcher Pass and GPRA, two destination recreation areas, the Government Peak Traverse Trail linking Skeetawk with the Little Susitna Loop will create a world-class option for bikers to use Skeetawk in the summer.

**LAND OWNERSHIP**

Portions of the trail will be on land managed by Alaska State Parks, the Mat-Su Borough, and Skeetawk which leases land from the Mat-Su Borough.

**PROJECT LEAD AND PARTNERS**

Project Lead: Land and Resource Management Division, Mat-Su Borough

*For use by Co-chair Staff Only:*



## Total Project Snapshot Report

2022 Legislature

TPS Report 66755v1

Partners: Alaska State Parks; Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation; Hatcher Alpine Xperience (Skeetawk).

USE: The trail will most likely be 4-to-6-foot bench cut tread built for hiking and mountain biking. There may be an option in the future to connect the Carle Wagon Road Trail with the southern most section of the Government Peak Traverse.

### ESTIMATED COST

Cost for the trail construction, trail easement survey, along with limited upgrades at the four trailheads is estimated at \$1.9 million.

### Project Timeline:

2023

### Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

MSB, AK State Parks, Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation; Hatcher Alpine Xperience (Skeetawk)

### Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No